



NEWS RELEASE

Today's Date: Monday, August 22, 2011

District 7: Los Angeles & Ventura Counties

Contact: Patrick Chandler

Phone: 213-897-3630

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mobile Murals Unveiled on the Hollywood Freeway (US 101)

LOS ANGELES – Today, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) unveiled two graffiti vandal-resistant mural replicas of George Sportelli's "Tony Curtis" and John Wehrle's "Galileo, Jupiter and Apollo" along the Hollywood Freeway (US 101) between Grand Avenue and Alameda Street.

Unfortunately, Ruben Soto's "I Know Who I Am" and Frank Romero's "Going to the Olympics" were stolen over the weekend. A police report has been taken.

"The Mobile Mural Demonstration Project gives Caltrans the ability to work with communities and businesses like Wells Fargo to improve the look of the freeway landscape, make necessary upgrades, and save tax dollars," said District 7 Director Michael Miles.

To combat graffiti vandalism, the Caltrans Transportation Art Program, working in conjunction with the Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LACC) and the muralists with the support costs provided by the Wells Fargo Foundation and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), have initiated the second phase of the Mobile Mural Demonstration Project. The mural replica will remain in place for 90 days.

"This project constitutes a big step in the right direction to combat the destructive force of graffiti vandalism that plagues our freeways," said Deputy District 7 Director of Maintenance Dan Freeman.

With the funds provided by Wells Fargo and Metro, the Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LACC) and Caltrans will maintain the mural replicas that once adorned US 101. The funding will support the replication of the murals and maintenance costs for LACC and Caltrans.

"This project started out of our sheer desire to get involved in the graffiti problem in Los Angeles," said Wells Fargo Corporate Properties Director Mark Ingram. "Through the restoration of the artwork, Wells Fargo hopes to inspire other companies to adopt one of the many historic murals along our freeways, and beautify our community."



NEWS RELEASE

The scaled replicas have been printed on a canvas made of recycled plastic and vinyl fabric. Previously, a lane closure would have to be established and then k-rail placed to close the shoulder for an extended amount of time to service or repaint the piece. The mural can now be mounted and removed for periodic cleanings without impeding traffic. The material should be able to resist most paint types that could be sprayed on to it.

Metro is funding a duplicate set of all four mural replicas to be used as a back-up should any of the replicas be temporarily removed for cleaning.

"Metro recognizes our role in the greater transportation experience in Los Angeles and is happy to participate with other partners in moving us closer to the transportation system that better represents this great region," said Metro's Executive Director of Highway Programs Douglas R. Failing.